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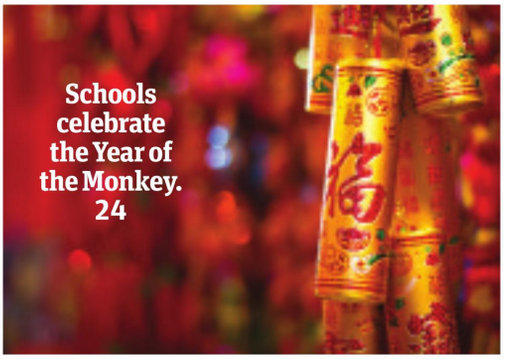

Schools celebrate the Year of the Monkey. 24

LATE NIGHT GETS A FEMALE VOICE

'Full Frontal with Samantha Bee' is feminist comedy. 19

Miller powering the surging Rangers. 25

STEPPING UP SAFETY

The city is taking action after a 15-story crane toppled into a Manhattan street, killing one. 8

GETTY IMAGES

VW COMPENSATION OFFER

1 Volkswagen will offer generous compensation packages for the roughly 600,000 U.S. owners of diesel vehicles that emit an illegal amount of emissions, the head of its claims fund told a German paper. The German car maker has still not decided whether vehicle owners will be offered cash, car buybacks, repairs or replacement cars, Kenneth Feinberg told Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. REUTERS

HASHTAG #RIPTWITTER

2 The hashtag #RIPTwitter became the top trending U.S. item on Twitter on Saturday, after a report from BuzzFeed said the company is planning to change how it displays users' tweets. The BuzzFeed report, which went live on Friday night and did not disclose the source of its information, said the social media platform will reorder tweets to prioritize those it believes more users will want to see. Currently, Twitter arranges tweets in chronological order. The response to the news on Twitter was overwhelmingly negative. REUTERS

INDIAN POINT LEAK

3 A nuclear power plant north of New York City has leaked water contaminated with radioactive tritium into the groundwater below the facility, sparking an investigation by state officials, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. Cuomo said he learned on Friday of "alarming" levels of radioactivity at three monitoring wells at the Indian Point plant in Buchanan, about 40 miles north of New York City on the east bank of the Hudson River. REUTERS

CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

7 Fireworks burst over the New York City skyline, and the Empire State Building lit up in red and gold, in honor of the Chinese Lunar New Year, as seen from Weehawken, New Jersey, on Saturday.

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

RIKERS GUARD CHARGED

4 A corrections officer at Rikers Island has been arrested on charges of planning to smuggle marijuana to an inmate with whom she had a sexual relationship, authorities said on Sunday. Nicole Bartley, 30, was charged with promoting prison contraband, as well as rape and other charges. The rape charge stems from New York law, under which inmates cannot legally consent to sex inside the jail. REUTERS

PEOPLE STILL TRAPPED

5 Rescuers in Taiwan pulled more people alive from a collapsed apartment tower on Sunday, a day after a strong earthquake shook the island, and kept searching for about 120 people still believed trapped in the ruins of the building. Those found alive include a 20-year-old identified by Taiwan media as Huang Kuang-wei and another man in his 20s surnamed Kuo, who was able to walk out from the rubble, supported by rescuers. Both were sent to hospital. REUTERS

SUPER BOWL FOR TEACHER

6 A music teacher from Yorktown Heights' Soundview Preparatory School in Westchester County accompanied Lady Gaga on piano when she sang the national anthem at Super Bowl 50 on Sunday. Alex Smith, who received his master's degree in jazz from SUNY Purchase, according to The Journal News, toured this summer with Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett and can be heard on their duet album, "Cheek to Cheek." METRO

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BRIEFS

One cop released, other still recovering in hospital from Bronx shooting

One of the two officers who was shot at a Bronx housing project last week is still recovering at the hospital, according to a published report.

Police Officer Diara Cruz told the New York Post on Sunday that she felt OK as she laid in bed at Lincoln Hospital.

The 24-year-old and her partner, Police Officer Patrick Espeut, were shot while they patrolled the Melrose Houses on Feb. 4 at about 8 p.m., according to authorities.

Espeut, 29, was shot in the cheek, and after being taken to the hospital was released on Friday. Cruz was shot twice in the torso and is reportedly expected to spend some time in the hospital so her injuries can be fully treated.

The two officers encountered two men in a sixth-floor stairwell. One of the men pulled out a gun and shot at them,

according to Reuters.

The suspect — later identified as 23-year-old Malik Chavis — fled into a seventh-floor apartment where he shot himself in the head, Reuters reported. A semiautomatic weapon and shotgun were found in the apartment with Chavis.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

Rookie officer Peter Liang arrives at a courtroom in Brooklyn on Jan. 20, 2016. GETTY IMAGES

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Cop accused of shooting black man to testify at trial

Peter Liang's lawyers have said he was in shock following the shooting and unable to render medical assistance to Akai Gurley.

A New York City police officer charged with fatally shooting an unarmed black man in an unlit Brooklyn stairwell is expected to take the stand in his own defense today at his trial for manslaughter.

Peter Liang was conducting a routine patrol inside a public housing project on the night of Nov. 20, 2014, when he fired his gun once. The bullet ricocheted off a wall and struck the chest of Akai Gurley, 28, who was walking one floor below with his girlfriend.

Prosecutors have said Liang, at the time a 27-year-old rookie police officer, spent minutes arguing with his patrol partner, officer Shaun Landau, about whether to report the shot to police headquarters while Gurley lay dying downstairs. Once Liang and Landau realized someone had been hit by the bullet, they failed to provide medical assistance despite their training, prosecutors claim.

The shooting helped to inflame tensions in New York and across the United States over the use of force against minorities by police officers, though Liang, who is Chinese-American, has not been accused of deliberately firing at Gurley.

Prosecutors have said Liang acted recklessly in unholstering his gun in the first place and then firing unnecessarily. Liang's defense lawyers have said Liang was justified in having his gun out as he patrolled a crime-ridden building without adequate lighting.

That defense was underscored on Thursday night, when two police officers were shot during a similar "vertical patrol" inside the stairwell of a public housing complex in the Bronx.

Jurors will weigh Liang's own account with versions of the story offered by Melissa Butler, Gurley's girlfriend who described frantically trying to administer aid while Liang stood by, and Liang's partner Landau, who testified last week under an immunity deal with prosecutors.

Liang's lawyers have said he was in shock following the shooting and unable to render medical assistance to Gurley.

Liang could be the final witness at the trial, which began two weeks ago in Brooklyn state Supreme Court.

REUTERS

INSTAGRAM

Manhattan firehouse says goodbye to beloved cat known for 'silly antics'

Boogie the cat was brought to the firehouse to combat mice, but instead became part of the family.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
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It wasn't planned, but one feline became the purrfect family member of one midtown Manhattan firehouse — and he will be dearly missed.

Boogie the cat, whose "silly antics" at FDNY Engine 1/Ladder 24's West 31st Street firehouse garnered him 19,000 followers on Instagram, died this weekend, according to the New York Daily News.

The five-year-old black-and-white cat was brought into the firehouse to help deal with a mice problem, but instead he won the hearts of everyone who met him.

The Instagram account had over 350 posts of photos showing Boogie's silly ways as he climbed on top of fire trucks, lounged on swivel office chairs and couches, bonded with fellow firefighters, and posed for photos with fans.

It was not immediately clear how Boogie died. Thousands flocked to his page to express their condolences and kind words for the beloved cat.

Also sending his condolences was another FDNY firehouse cat, Carlow, who said goodbye to his "meowtual partner" on his Instagram account @carlow_fdny_cat, the New York Post reported.

"You will be missed brother," read the post.

On Sunday, the firehouse also posted a video of photos of Boogie with fans and thanked everyone for the support pouring in since his passing.

"We are so humeowbled by the outpouring of love and support for Boogie," the post said. "I know there are many more and we welcome any pictures people would like to direct message us. Thank you again for being amazing."

BRIEFS

Son, 19, beats father to death outside Queens home: Reports

Police have arrested and charged a 19-year-old Queens man who allegedly killed his father in a drunken fight on Friday night.

Police responded to an assault in progress in front of 47-05 Utopia Parkway around 9:30 p.m. and found 57-year-old Ioannis Safetis unconscious and unresponsive, according to authorities.

Safetis had trauma to the left side of his head and scratches on his face, police said. He was taken to New York-Presbyterian Queens, where he was pronounced dead.

Police arrested his 19-year-old son, Dimitrios Safetis, and charged him with manslaughter, assault and criminal possession of a weapon, authorities said.

The younger Safetis allegedly beat his father to death with a steering-wheel lock club following a drunken argument, the New York Daily News reported.

It allegedly began when Dimitrios and his 16-year-old brother were partying at Ioannis' ex-wife's house. The woman then called Ioannis to complain about his sons, the Daily News said.

Ioannis arrived and allegedly made threats to her, his sons and his ex-wife's sons before retrieving a steering-wheel club from his car.

After wrestling with his father, Dimitrios allegedly grabbed the club and beat his father to death. He was still awaiting arraignment as of Sunday afternoon.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

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7 Things you didn't know about the Vikings

Sweden brings the real history of its ancestors to Times Square.

EVA KIS
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VIKINGS NYC exhibition. PAUL MARTINKA

Vikings are invading Times Square. Actually, if we're being historically accurate, they would've been much more likely to come to 42nd Street to catch a show and maybe check out the street meat situation.

"When you imagine a Viking, you often think of a specific stereotype: male, strong, beard, helmet, sword, conquering the world with a brutal mindset," says Sophie Nyman, director of exhibitions at the Swedish History Museum, which is bringing over 500 artifacts to Discovery Times Square for its newest exhibition, "Vikings," which opened Saturday.

But here are a few things you probably didn't know about Vikings:

1 Women had an equal role in society

Half of the exhibit's 500 artifacts are items that would've been worn, used or made by women to reflect the equality they enjoyed in Norse society. Farming and seafaring were done by both sexes.

2 Ships served as graves

While funerals at sea — putting a Viking's body on a boat and setting it ablaze as it drifted out into the ocean — were held, many people were buried not in rectangular graves, but in ships.

3 A taste for finer things

Viking women had elaborate necklaces of glass beads, wore intricate brooches and had jewelry boxes so finely crafted that modern jewelers don't know how they could've been created at the time. Some men had ornamented metalwork on their leather belts and preferred filigreed hilts on their swords. "It was a colorful community with a lot of beautiful items," says Nyman. "They were quite vain, I would say."

4 Vikings were not green

The construction of their longboats and smaller vessels was incredibly hard on the environment. It took oak, pine, ash and willow trees to build the hull and masts, then horsetail for the ropes, sheep's wool for the sails and tar and charcoal.

5 The Norse hell is cold

In Norse mythology, there were four places you could end up in the afterlife. Women, children and the elderly who died natural deaths went to a frozen wasteland called "Hel." Their bodies would often be buried with spikes, which they could wear on their feet to get around in the afterlife. Valhalla, the highest realm, belonged only to the gods and warriors.

6 Vikings could choose their gods

The polytheistic Norse faith allowed its followers to choose which god to worship above all the others. Since most Vikings depended on rainfall for their crops, Thor, the god of thunder, was the most revered. But among the aristocracy, the strong father figure, Odin, enjoyed popularity.

7 Let's talk about that helmet

While you can't live the conquering life without a helmet, the addition of the horns happened to be pure fiction. When Richard Wagner's opera epic "The Ring of the Nibelung," which included elements of Norse mythology, was first staged in 1876, the villainous Hunding wore a horned helmet. The association stuck, but real Vikings wore a metal helmet with no ornamentation, let alone bull horns.

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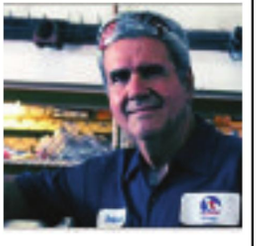

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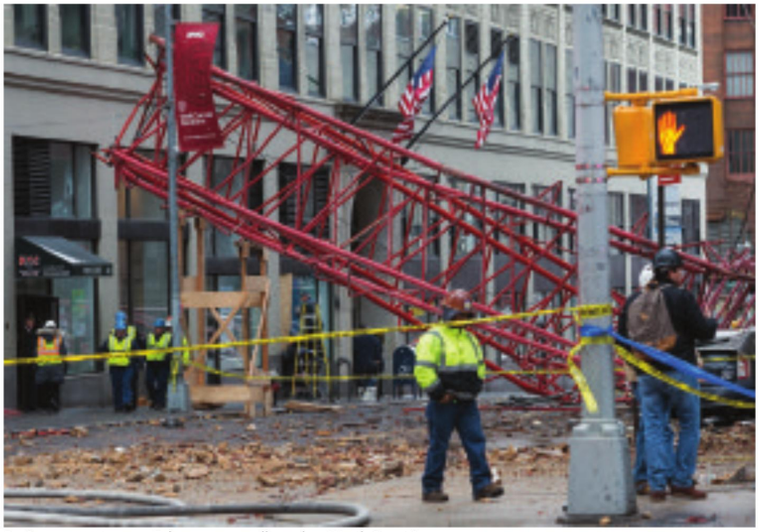

During a snowstorm on Feb. 5, a crane collapsed on Worth Street in downtown Manhattan, killing one and injuring others. GETTY IMAGES

Safety plan follows fatal crane collapse

A four-point plan will be put into effect starting today to ensure safety when large cranes are being used.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Following last week's fatal crane accident, which killed one and injured others, the city has announced new immediate improvements to ensure all New Yorkers are kept safe.

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Sunday a four-point plan, which will take into effect starting today, that will increase safety when large cranes are operating.

Just before 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 5, a crew at a construction site on Worth Street in downtown Manhattan were lowering a crane due to high winds. The crawler crane toppled over, killing 38-year-old David Wichs and crushing a line of parked cars.

A funeral was held on Sunday for Wichs, who worked as a financial trader on Wall Street and was remembered as an "extraordinary" and humble man, CBS New York reported. Four other people who were injured during the collapse were taken to the hospital and have since been released.

According to the mayor, the crew at the site "were doing exactly what they were supposed to do" and decided to not work on the site but instead secure the crane.

He added that the Department of Buildings (DOB) visited the scene the day before the collapse to approve measures and everything "seemed to be proper" and no high winds were reported for the following day during the inspection.

A full investigation is currently underway to review everything that happened on the morning of Feb. 5. Parts of the investigation are expected to take weeks, while some aspects could take several months, de Blasio said.

And although the cause of the accident is still being investigated, new measures will be put into effect to prevent any future tragedies.

There will be new restrictions on crawler cranes requiring crews to cease operation and go into "safety mode" whenever steady winds are forecast to go over 20 mph or gusts to exceed 30 mph. The DOB will send advisories to engineers when those conditions are issued and engineers must certify the advisory with the agency. Any crane engineers that fail to do so will result in violations and the DOB will raise base penalties from $4,800 to $10,000.

The NYPD, FDNY, DOB and Department of Transportation will also increase enforcement of sidewalk and street closures when any crane activity occurs. The DOT will require there be pedestrian traffic managers during projects that operate large cranes in areas that see a lot of pedestrian traffic. The DOB will also conduct inspections and issue any violations when personnel are not "appropriately restricting pedestrian and vehicular traffic."

Operators will also be required to notify residents and businesses in an area before moving a crane. At the moment, crane operators are required to notify only when the crane gets installed.

Finally, the city has created a new task force to create future strategies that will improve crane safety, the mayor said. In the next 90 days, the team will evaluate the conditions surrounding Friday's crane collapse and propose better practices and regulations "to make New York's cranes the safest in the world."

"No building is worth a person's life. We are going to ensure the record boom in construction and growth does not come at the expense of safety," de Blasio said.

ISTOCK

BRACE FOR FRIGID COLD

Bolaris' Weather Watch

JOHN BOLARIS
@weathersavior

I warned you last week that the polar vortex would return by this week, and as you walk out the door this morning, some are getting smacked with heavy snow, while others will feel the cold air seep back into their bones.

This will be a full week of relentless cold, and for the first half, we will deal with accumulating snow. As for how much snow? That depends on where you live.

This morning a very intense ocean storm is sending bands of heavy snow across sections of eastern Long Island with the bulls-eye taking aim at southern New England.

For the Philadelphia region, the main impact will be some minor tidal flooding along the Jersey shore and just a brush with some light snow mainly for the coastal sections and off shore.

After the ocean storm departs, diving energy will dive southeastward from the Ohio Valley and this will lead to secondary storm development just off the Jersey shore come late tonight. This storm will not be nearly as intense as the storm that is moving off the coastline now.

A frigid blast is expected for the entire Northeast, as cupid shoots a frigid arrow this way for Valentines weekend. Many areas will fall into the single numbers on Saturday night, with wind chill factors below zero.

Expect slushy streets

A very intense ocean storm is coming painfully close to our region.

Right now the best chance of significant snow remains across eastern Long Island, especially east of Islip where 3 to 5 inches could accumulate, and across the twin forks, the north fork could see up to 8 inches.

New York City and surrounding suburbs should see no more than a slushy inch. This storm will pull away later today and any snow will come to an end.

Snow may start early Tuesday and bring roughly four inches south of the city, across Philly. We could see up to 3 inches by Tuesday night, causing a slick commute.

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Carnival roars ahead in Brazil despite Zika health scare

The worst health scare in recent history is not keeping Brazilians from their annual Carnival revelry, with millions of partiers swarming streets and some making fun of the mosquito that spreads Zika and other viruses.

Street processions, block parties and the televised, big-budget parades that are the hallmark of the festival moved into their second day on Sunday, even as Brazilian health officials continued to grapple with an outbreak that may have infected as many as 1.5 million people and could be linked to suspected deformations in more than 4,000 infants and unborn children.

"It's one more thing to worry about," said Juliana Araujo, a 48-year-old schoolteacher at a street party in Rio de Janeiro, where other problems, like an economic recession and impeachment proceedings against Brazil's president, seemed distant concerns.

Recent news that traces of the virus had been identified in blood, saliva and other bodily fluids of patients known to have been infected with Zika would not do much to dampen a festival known for its fair share of casual sex, she predicted: "People aren't going to stop having fun and hooking up."

Over a million people hit the streets in cities like Rio, home to the country's best-known Carnival celebration, and the northeastern capitals of Salvador and Recife, two cities hard hit by the outbreak.

Along with the usual cross-dressing, superheroes and other outlandish costumes worn by partygoers, some toyed with themes related to the scare. Outside a juice bar in Rio early on Sunday, three men dressed as mosquitoes mingled with other revelers, the names of maladies borne by the insect stenciled across their chests: "Zika," "dengue" and "chikungunya."

For some, the levity is welcome relief amid nonstop Zika headlines. After emerging in Brazil last year, the virus has now been locally transmitted in at least 30 countries, according to the World Health Organization.

REUTERS

Scenes from Carnival 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. GETTY IMAGES

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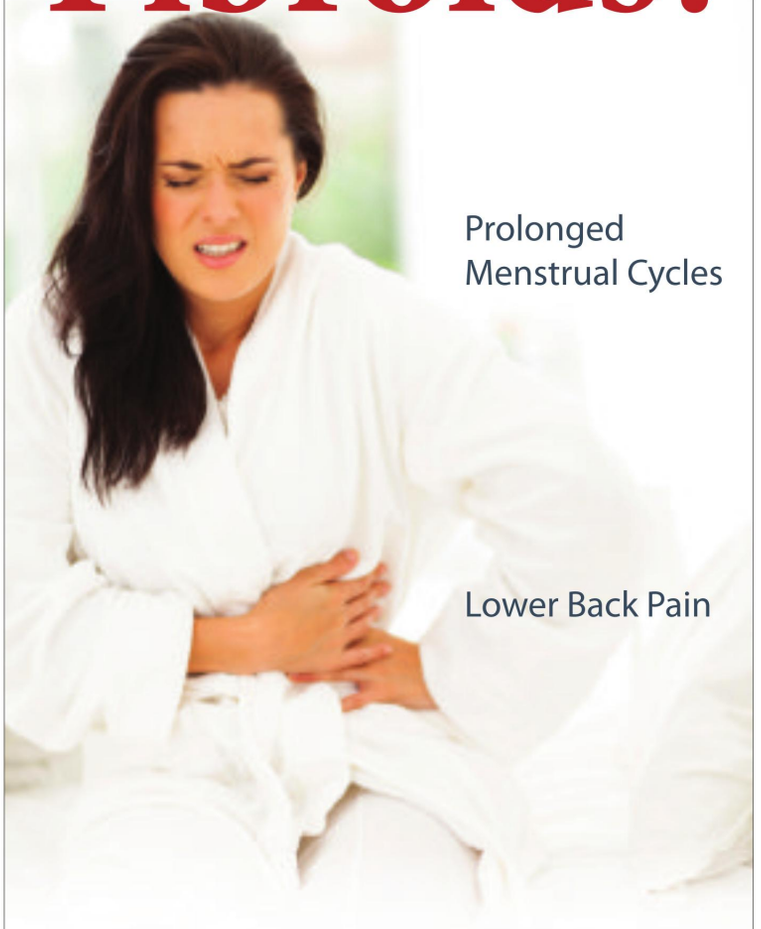
Super security

A Homeland Security police officer watches as fans arrive for Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium on Sunday between the Denver Broncos and the Carolina Panthers in Santa Clara, California. GETTY IMAGES

Fibroids?



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North Korean rocket puts object into space, angers neighbors, US

The U.S. Strategic Command said it had detected a missile entering space, and South Korea's military said the rocket had put an object into orbit.

North Korea launched a long-range rocket on Sunday carrying what it called a satellite, but its neighbors and the United States denounced the launch as a missile test, conducted in defiance of U.N. sanctions and just weeks after a nuclear bomb test.

North Korea said the launch of the satellite Kwangmyongsong-4, named after late leader Kim Jong Il, was a "complete success" and it was making a polar orbit of Earth every 94 minutes. The launch order was given by his son, leader Kim Jong Un, who is believed to be 33 years old.

The launch prompted South Korea and the United States to announce that they would explore the feasibility of deploying an advanced missile defense system in South Korea, which China and Russia both oppose, "at the earliest possible date."

North Korea's state news agency carried a still picture of a white rocket, which closely resembled a previously launched rocket, lifting off. Another showed Kim surrounded by cheering military officials at what appeared to be a command center.

Isolated North Korea's last long-range rocket launch, in 2012, put what it called a communications satellite into orbit, but no signal has ever been detected from it.

"If it can communicate with the Kwangmyongsong-4, North Korea will learn about operating a satellite in space," said David Wright, co-director and senior scientist at the Global Security Program of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

"Even if not, it gained experience with launching and learned more about the reliability of its rocket systems."

The rocket lifted off at around 9:30 a.m. Seoul time (7:30 p.m. Saturday, EST) on a southward trajectory, as planned. Japan's Fuji Television Network showed a streak of light heading into the sky, taken from a camera at China's border with North Korea.

North Korea had notified United Nations agencies that it planned to launch a rocket carrying an Earth observation satellite, triggering opposition from governments that see it as a long-range missile test.

The U.N. Security Council condemned the launch in an emergency meeting on Sunday, and vowed to take "significant measures" in response to Pyongyang's violations of U.N. resolutions, Venezuela's U.N. ambassador said.

Venezuelan Ambassador Rafael Dario Ramirez Carreño, president of the council this month, told reporters the launch was "a serious violation of Security Council resolutions." REUTERS

People watch a television screen showing breaking news on North Korea's long-range rocket launch at Seoul Station on Sunday in Seoul, South Korea. GETTY IMAGES

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STUDY

Rubio falters in presidential debate, offering hope to rivals

Rubio's tough moments may breathe new life into the campaigns of Christie, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Marco Rubio GETTY IMAGES

Republican White House contender Marco Rubio struggled at a debate on Saturday at the worst possible time, potentially confounding his bid to emerge as Donald Trump's chief rival in New Hampshire and giving hope to three rivals desperate for a strong showing.

Under assault from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie over his level of experience as a first-term senator from Florida, Rubio retreated time and again to canned statements from his stump speech and looked uncomfortably rattled for the first time after seamless performances at seven prior debates.

"Marco, the thing is this," Christie said during one heated exchange early in the night, "when you're president of the United States, when you're a governor of a state, the memorized 30-second speech where you talk about how great America is at the end of it doesn't solve one problem for one person."

While Rubio recovered later in the debate, the timing of his performance was terrible, coming three days before New Hampshire Republicans register their choices on Tuesday in the nation's second nominating contest. The debate at St. Anselm College was the last face-off of the candidates before the vote.

Rubio's tough moments may breathe new life into the campaigns of Christie, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, three experienced politicians who, like Rubio, represent establishment Republicans.

Trump did not have his best debate. He looked flustered in a fight with Bush over the use of eminent domain in advancing the interests of public use projects and private industry.

But he seemed to do well enough to possibly win on Tuesday in what would represent his first victory of the 2016 race, erasing the pain from a loss in the Iowa caucus last week, where he finished second to Cruz and just ahead of the surging Rubio.

A victory in New Hampshire could put Trump on track for more wins in South Carolina on Feb. 20 and beyond on the way to the Nov. 8 election.

For the second debate in a row, Bush looked polished and sounded like the candidate many establishment Republicans had pinned their hopes on. His problem is it may be too late.

Kasich, likely to end his candidacy if he does not do well on Tuesday, delivered a positive message that could appeal to New Hampshire Republican voters, who famously make up their minds late and never seem in the mood to follow the lead of the Iowa caucuses, won by Cruz. REUTERS

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New Hampshire win not necessary to secure nomination: Trump

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said he does not have to win the New Hampshire primary vote on Tuesday to secure the nomination, apparently tamping down expectations despite holding a double-digit lead in that state's polls.

The billionaire businessman came second to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in the Iowa caucuses last week although polls put him ahead. His candidacy has alarmed the Republican establishment and has been marked by controversy, including over his calls for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States.

No Republican has won the presidential nomination without winning either the Iowa caucuses or the New Hampshire primary since the 1970s, but it would not technically be impossible.

Asked whether a loss in New Hampshire would derail his campaign, Trump told the NBC News show "Meet the Press": "I don't think I need it. I hope that I get it."

"I would like to win but I don't know that it is necessary."

Recent opinion polls give him a lead of between 10 and 22 percentage points over the next closest contender.

Trump has built his campaign in part around his self-declared reputation as a "winner," and a loss in New Hampshire would intensify doubts that he can translate opinion-poll support into votes.

He also told "Meet the Press" that he has spent as much as $50 million less than expected on the campaign so far, in part because the media provides him so much free publicity.

"People like you put me on. What do I take a commercial for?" Trump told the show's moderator Chuck Todd. REUTERS

BRIEF

Christie, Rubio and Kasich get more debate traction on social media

Donald Trump lost his social media dominance for the first time during the Republican presidential debates as the candidates made their eighth showing in New Hampshire.

Instead, many on Twitter took to mocking contender Marco Rubio, who came under heavy attack on Saturday from rivals. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie also saw a big bump in his share of the social conversation.

By the end of the night, Trump, who has the most followers, still received the largest share of mentions on Twitter, with 33 percent compared to Rubio's 20 percent. Ted Cruz, a senator from Texas, came in third, with 15 percent.

But Twitter said an hour into the debate that Rubio was the most tweeted about candidate on the social media platform, marking the first time a candidate other than Trump came out on top within that time frame.

Overall, Rubio received 10 more mentions per minute on Twitter than he did during the last Republican debate on Jan. 28, according to social media analytics firm Zoomph. REUTERS

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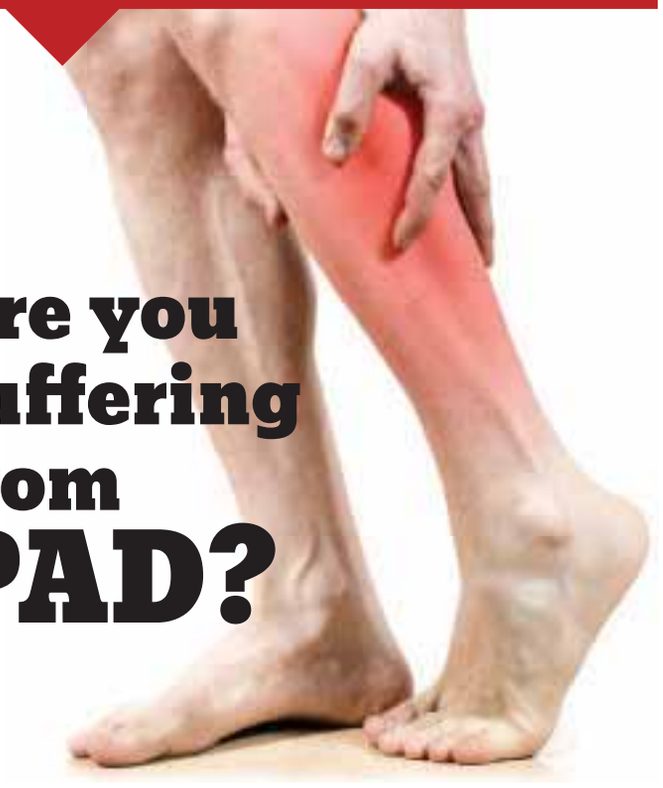

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Can Baby Boomers Avoid Knee Surgery With Modern Arthritis Treatments?

Doctors say these two factors are the keys to knee arthritis treatment success and relieving pain without surgery

By Matt Edgar

America's Health Writer

New York City - Everyone has said it at one time or another. If I had only known about "this" sooner - things would be very different today.

That's what many knee arthritis pain sufferers are saying about this technology and treatment.

"We all know that countless lives are being saved every year because of early detection and better treatment of cancer," noted the clinic director at the OsteoRelief Institute in New York City. "*The same holds true for treating knee arthritis pain. I believe we are having so much success at OsteoRelief Institute because of two factors: One is we are using advanced medical technology and treatments a lot of clinics do not use. And second, the word has spread to our community and so many knee arthritis sufferers are coming in sooner. And the earlier we can treat knee arthritis - the better the results. The key to avoiding knee replacement surgery is doing the correct treatments as soon as possible."*

What is the "correct treatment?"

"That depends," said the director. *"There is no one answer when it comes to medical conditions and knee arthritis is no different. That's why, if you have knee pain, you should have it evaluated by a doctor who deals with and treats knee pain every day,"* added the director.

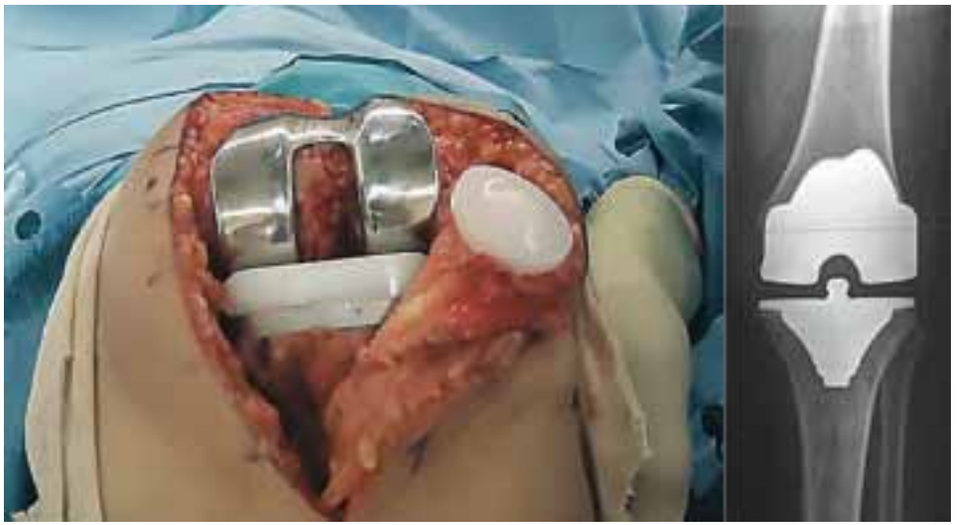
For many knee arthritis pain sufferers the right treatments is viscosupplementation. In this treatment, a preparation of Hyaluronic acid (such as Hyalgan) is injected directly into the knee joint.

Hyaluronic acid is a natural lubricant and shock absorber of your joints and is found to be decreased in arthritis sufferers. This is similar to running your car low or without oil. Obviously, the sooner you put oil back in the car - the less damage will be done. That's why some doctors feel early viscosupplementation gets the best results and is so important for avoiding surgery.

The director, believes one of the most important factors for the success of viscosupplementation is making sure you are getting it into the joint space. That's why the doctors at OsteoRelief Institute use advanced imaging technology called a "C-Arm."

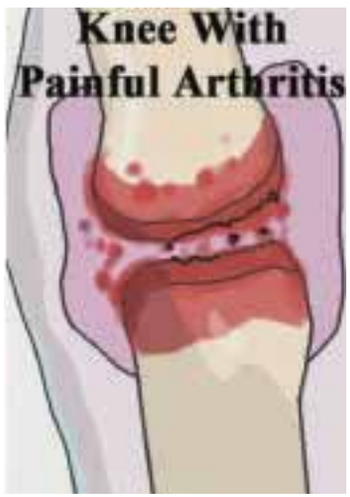
A C-Arm allows the doctor to see into the joint and actually watch the injection go where it is supposed to. Research shows that performing injections without digital imaging can result in missing the joint space as much as 30% of the time. If you had viscosupplementation treatments without advanced imagining and did not get good results - this may be why.

"If you have knee arthritis pain, viscosupplementation might be the answer you are looking for. The keys are to not wait, get a good evaluation from an expert and make sure advanced digital imaging (C-Arm) is used to make sure you have the best chance for success."



Can This Be Avoided? Total knee replacement is serious surgery requiring months of rehabilitation. Some doctors think modern treatments done early enough can keep baby boomers from going under the knife.

Everyone Wants Proof: In the artist simulated drawings above, picture #1 is a normal, pain-free knee. There is no arthritis and the knee can move and bend freely without pain.



Pain - the red is a knee joint with painful osteo-arthritis. Arthritis causes the joint space to decrease, grinding, stiffness, decreased motion, bone spurs, swelling and a lot of pain.

Successful Treatment - Hyalgan (blue) being precisely injected directly into the knee joint using laser guided hologic imaging. Advanced imaging allows treatments to be as precise as possible. Hyalgan can lubricate the joint and decrease pain.

Failed Treatment - the injection (and Hyalgan) misses the joint space. Research shows this occurs up to 30% of the time without the use of laser guided hologic imaging to guide the injection. This is why Hyalgan may not have worked for you.

Knee Pain Screenings Offered To Help Determine If New York Metro Area Residents Qualify For Popular Treatment

Knee pain sufferers have limited time to claim knee pain screening to see if all-natural knee arthritis treatment might work for them

If you qualify for this treatment, it might be one of the happiest days of your life.

That's because, for the past year and a half, hundreds of knee pain sufferers have flocked to OsteoRelief Institute New York City.

That's when their specially trained-doctors added Hyalgan treatments to their already successful comprehensive knee pain relief program.

Viscosupplementation is unique because - even-though it is manufactured by a pharmaceutical company, it is NOT considered a drug because it is a natural substance with an incredible story.

Why So Many Want It

You see, when you suffer with arthritis - the lubricating fluid (synovial fluid) in your knee joint dries up.

This means instead of gliding smoothly - your bones start to rub and grind against each other.

This causes a little pain in the beginning - but over time the pain steadily gets worse until it is excruciating.

Like "Joint Oil"

Viscosupplementation works so well because it is like 'joint oil." It is a natural substance that contains one of the natural building blocks of the synovial fluid that lubricates your knee.

Scientists and researchers discovered this natural building block to synovial fluid in the rooster's comb - that big red thing on top of the roosters head. It is extracted from the roosters comb, purified and concentrated.

When it is injected directly into your knee joint, it is like squirting oil on a rusty door hinge.

Viscosupplementation allows your joints to glide more smoothly eliminating a lot of the rubbing, grinding and pain.

Can Supplements Do The Same Thing?

No. Glucosamine and chondroitin and other supplements are much different. You can only get this from a doctor and it often helps knee pain sufferers who got limited or no success from glucosamine and chondroitin. Beware of unsubstantiated claims made by supplements to do what this advanced medical procedure does.

Why You Should Try This Even If You've Already Had Similar Treatments Without Results...

"We have been able to help so many knee pain sufferers - even many who have already tried other injections like Synvisc, Supartz, Orthovisc and even Hyalgan. We use special and very advanced advanced low dose video flouroscopy imaging called "Hologic Digital Imaging" so we can see right into the joint. This allows us to put the Viscosupplementation exactly where is needs to be. Studies show doctors doing joint injections without flouroscopy miss the joint up to 30% of the time." said the director of Arthritis Treatment at Osteorelief Institute.

OsteoRelief Institute is a state of the art medical facility offering only the best technology.

"Every case is individual. Some patients get quite a bit of relief right away - others take a little more time. But most have been extremely happy. We've noted results lasting no less than 6 months for many but up to 2 years for some patients.. Patients who were suffering for years with bad knee pain are getting their lives back... going for walks again and exercising. It's amazing to see. They tell all their friends - that's why we are swarmed. I can't tell you how many patients have cancelled their total knee replacement surgeries." added the director.

How To Get I

If you have knee pain, the director would like to invite you for a no obligation screening to see if you are a candidate for Hyalgan treatments.

Advanced Medical Technology Can Make All The Difference: This advanced digital imaging called a C-arm allows doctors to see directly into the knee joint so treatments are precise and the Hyalgan actually goes where it is supposed to. Studies show that injections done without digital imaging can miss the joint up to 30% of the time. This is one reason Hyalgan or other Viscosupplementation may not have worked for you. OsteoRelief Institute uses this C-arm for every Hyalgan treatment.

All you have to do is call 800-227-KNEE (5633) right now and when the scheduling specialist answers the phone tell her you would like your no obligation "Knee Pain Screening." The specialists at OsteoRelief Institute can only accept a limited amount of new patients each month for this screening - so if you are interested please call now. Your no obligation screening will only take about 25-30 minutes... you will get all your questions answered and leave knowing if you have possibly found the solution to your knee pain.

And here's something really important - Viscosupplementation treatments are covered by most insurance and medicare. To schedule your no obligation screening or if you have any questions call 800-227-KNEE (5633).

If You Can Answer Yes -You Are Eligible For A Knee Arthritis Screening With The Experts At OsteoRelief Institute

- **Do you have pain and osteoarthritis (arthritis) of the knee?**
- **Have you tried other treatments such as NSAIDS and other anti-inflamatory medications without success?**
- **Have you already tried viscosupplementation (Hyalgan, Suparz, Synvisc) without satisfactory results?**

If you answered yes to any of these questions - give OsteoRelief Institute a call and schedule your no obligation knee pain screening 800-227-KNEE (5633).

Red Lobster squanders Beyoncé tweet opportunity

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Over the weekend, Beyoncé casually dropped a new video, "Formation (Dirty)," that took the online world by storm. But one particular lyric got a bit of extra attention — and with good reason. In the middle of the track, she slips in, "When he f— me good, I'll take his a— to Red Lobster." Which is just plain awesome. So immediately the denizens of Twitter turned to the seafood chain for a response — any response, really — to the epic endorsement. Personally, I was hoping they'd just adopt it as their new slogan, but no. Early Sunday morning, the crack team of marketers at Red Lobster finally released "Cheddar Bey Biscuits" — has a nice ring to it, don't you think? — before hashtagging the song and at-mentioning Beyoncé. Just … no. I mean, we shouldn't be surprised that Red Lobster would disappoint — it's a familiar feeling, after all — but still. On the bright side, I hear there's a certain chain restaurant that suddenly has an opening for a social media manager.

the word

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Solange's son makes everything OK

Speaking of the Knowles family, Beyonce's sister Solange was having a much less super weekend thanks to a mishap at a Mardi Gras parade that saw her wedding ring go missing. "Honorary Muse Solange lost her wedding ring between Toledano and Foucher. Reward if found," the Krewe of Muses organization wrote on their Facebook page following the parade this weekend. There's no word yet on whether the ring has been found and returned, but Knowles herself is keeping things in perspective, tweeting, "My son said, mom I'm just happy YOU didn't fly off the float, & that your safe, & that you still get to have the love you have. *tears dried."

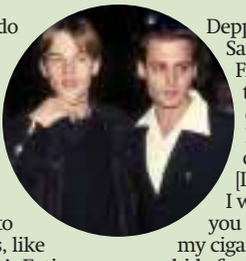
@SteveMartinToGo
I don't think it's right when they call linemen "offensive."

@MiaFarrow
Always insightful to hear an all male panel's perspective on abortion

@mradamscott
Jeb Bush is a terrific storyteller

@kirstiealley
If you sit down with someone, U usually find you have many things in common & will like them ..too bad we don't have HUGE kitchen tables

Johnny Depp 'tortured' Leonardo DiCaprio



Sure, Leonardo DiCaprio is a megastar, but there was a time when he was just a sitcom kid trying to transition into meatier roles, like 1993's "What's Eating Gilbert Grape." It probably didn't help to have his older, more successful co-star be such a jerk. "I tortured him," Johnny Depp said at the Santa Barbara Film Festival this weekend. "It was kind of a dark period. [I'd say], 'No, I will not give you a drag of my cigarette while you hide from your mother again, Leo.'" And you see what that led to? DiCaprio vaping all the way through the SAG Awards.

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Feminist — not feminine

Samantha Bee brings a new perspective to political comedy with "Full Frontal."

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"Full Frontal with Samatha Bee" airs Monday nights at 10:30 p.m. on TBS. CREDIT

When her late-night political comedy show "Full Frontal" premieres today, Samantha Bee will do one thing like a man: She'll be standing up.

"The one thing that I knew is that I wouldn't have a desk," the former "Daily Show" correspondent says. "I actually like using my body a little bit more. I find if I'm really stationary, sometimes all the comedy goes into my face, and then it's a really weird performance of me pulling crazy faces."

Bee's mission statement for the show is straightforward: "I'd like to make a funny show that draws attention to things that are important." But how will her gender affect what that means? Will this be an after-hours version of a daytime talk show? Can women's issues be funny? Does being a woman pose an obligation?

Bee says her "womanness" will certainly influence the show's point of view. "[Women] see things differently," she says. "The stories that speak to us, speak to us differently than they speak to the other shows, and that naturally flows from the gender that we grew up with." The risque-sounding title is actually about being unflinching and even visceral — like an upcoming segment on Texas' TRAP laws changing how abortion providers operate.

Ultimately, "Full Frontal" will not be feminine so much as feminist. Bee points to the Zika virus outbreak and the response of medical authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention here in the U.S., warning women not to get pregnant rather than urging men to use birth control. "Full Frontal" aims to be a reminder of a simple truth: We're all in this together.

"A story about women getting a mosquito-borne virus that creates birth defects in the womb affects men, it affects families," she says. "These things don't just resonate with women; they're everybody's issues."

Proud Canadian

Bee is hoping to leverage her Canadian heritage for the show: The Toronto native is trying to get Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as a guest when he visits New York in March. Besides having sway with the world's new political crush, being an immigrant has been an advantage in her line of work: "It was always useful, from the beginning, because it's such a bird's-eye view into this janky political system."

GETTY IMAGES

The breakthrough: Alden Ehrenreich

The young actor plays a singing cowboy star in the Coens' "Hail, Caesar!"

MATT PRIGGE
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In "Hail, Caesar!" Alden Ehrenreich plays Hobie Doyle, one of Old Hollywood's popular singing cowboys. ALISON ROSA

It's not easy pretending to be a bad actor. In the Coen brothers' "Hail, Caesar!" Alden Ehrenreich has to do just that. He plays Hobie Doyle, a fictitious star of singing cowboy pictures of the early '50s, and the studio bosses decide he should try his hand at light comedy. What's bad for the film-within-the-film is great for the audience, as Ehrenreich nails the deer-in-headlights awkwardness of a limited thespian who's been miscast.

In truth he's never felt uncomfortable performing on screen.

"I started acting when I was really young," Ehrenreich tells us. "I was 18 in my first movie. When you're that young you don't know any better. You don't know that you should be uncomfortable."

The Coens are famous for not giving their actors a lot of notes yet still getting highly stylized, precise performances. How can you tell you're doing what they want?

"If they're laughing, that's one thing," Ehrenreich says. "They laugh out loud during takes to the point where sometimes you have to re-record stuff. If they're liking something they just laugh, which makes it really fun cause you feel like you have a real audience there."

Ehrenreich, 26, is no stranger to the film classics. "When I was really little, my parents used to do these film festivals in our house, where we'd watch like every Charlie Chaplin movie or Marx Brothers movies or Westerns. A lot of Westerns." That came in handy for "Caesar!" in which he has to rock the stiff acting and light crooning that came with America's then-most-popular film genre.

The Coens are far from the first major filmmakers for whom Ehrenreich has worked. His breakthrough was in 2009's "Tetro," for no less than Francis Ford Coppola, who cast him again in his 2011 3-D film "Twixt." He had a small role in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine," and this year should see the release of Warren Beatty's still untitled Howard Hughes movie, in which he's second-billed. On top of that, he was discovered as a teen by Steven Spielberg, who saw a comedic video he acted in for a friend's bar mitzvah.

All of this came in handy for "Hail, Caesar!," which requires knowing a lot about cinema's Golden Age.

"The best research for old Hollywood research is Warren," he says. "Warren came here in 1959 and has been famous for 50 years. He knew Orson Welles and knew Charlie Chaplin and knew [MGM boss] Louis B. Mayer and knew [producer] Charlie Feldman and [writer] Lillian Hellman and all these people. I met with Warren for about five years before we made the movie and that time was spent getting all this history from him and hearing these incredible stories."

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"THREE KINGS"

George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg and Ice Cube try to busy themselves during the Gulf War in David O. Russell's "Three Kings." **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

Director David O. Russell is riding high now, but before "Silver Linings Playbook" and "American Hustle" he was persona non grata—a difficult hellion whose actors hated him. Indeed, George Clooney loudly complained to anyone who would listen about his unsightly antics while filming this 1999 Desert Storm dramedy.

But like 2004's "I Heart Huckabees," it turned out pretty great, despite the difficulty. Clooney, Mark Wahlberg and Ice Cube play soldiers so bored by the lack of action they try to steal some Iraqi gold. Sharp back then, it only seems more insightful now, an eight-year war, untold casualties and trillions of dollars later.

"AN HONEST LIAR"

Magician-turned-debunker James "The Amazing" Randi gets his Great Man doc with "An Honest Liar." **ABRAMORAMA**

More than a catalogue of his greatest hits, this Great Man doc on James Randi—aka magician "The Amazing Randi"—is a sobering reminder that fighting the irrational is an uphill battle. Like most respectable conjurers, Randi, still razor sharp at 87, went from illusionist to professional skeptic, debunking those who would fleece the public by claiming their "powers" were real. Among his conquests are Uri Geller, who claimed his simple spoon-bending trick was legit, and nefarious evangelist Peter Popoff. Yet those two have found ways to thrive after their disgrace—proof that humanity's prowess for self-delusion never completely dies.

"THE DOUBLE"

Remember when Jesse Eisenberg wrote a withering New Yorker short story about a venal, horny film critic? Apart from how lazy it was, it seemed inexplicable given he's an actual critics' darling. Case in point: his dual role as a mushy-mouthed sadsack and a cocksure extrovert who may be his evil doppelganger. Both extremes of his personality are well-used by actor-turned-director Richard Aoyade (Moss from "The IT Crowd"), who sets his tale—loosely based on Dostoevsky's novella—in a grimy, Gilliam-esque city where all hope is crushed by bureaucracy and dim lighting.

Here's one of two Jesse Eisenbergs (with Mia Wasikowska) in Richard Ayoade's dark comedy "The Double." **MAGNOLIA PICTURES**

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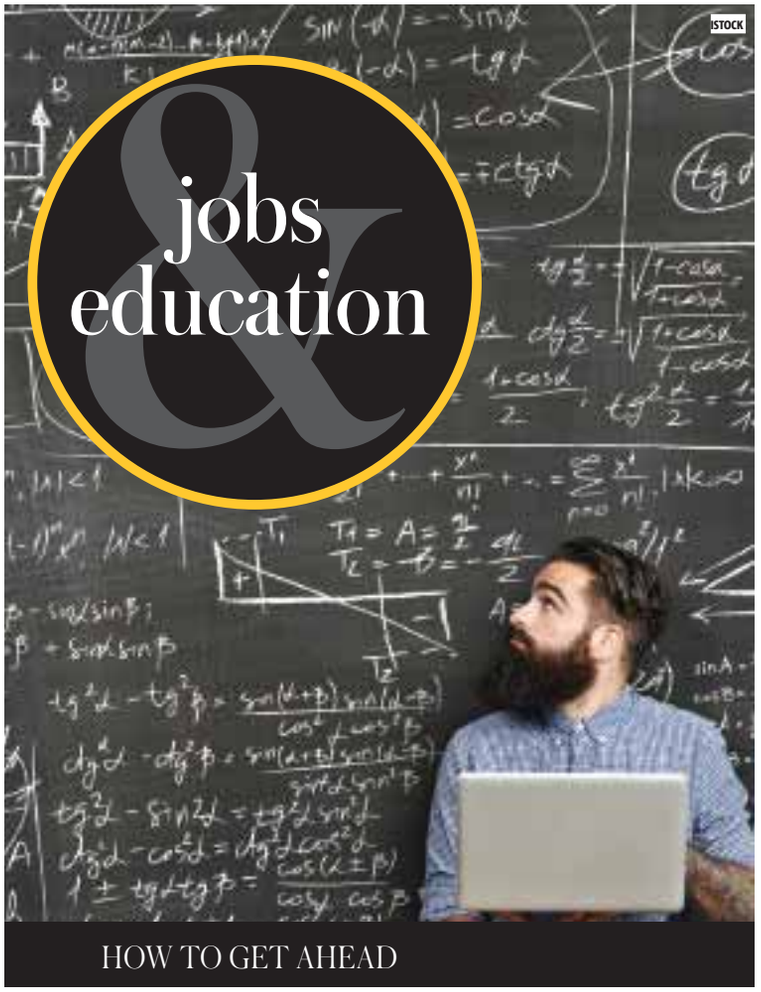

What your college major says about you

Are law students selfish and art students neurotic? According to a new study, yes.

DMITRY BELYAEV
Metro World News
letters@metro.us

University majors attract students with very similar personality types, according to a study published in the journal "Personality and Individual Differences." Lead author Anna Vedel, a psychologist at the University of Aarhus in Denmark, found that those who study business or law tend to be more selfish and uncooperative but on the plus side, they're "less neurotic" and more extroverted than those in arts or humanities.

Scientists analyzed 13,000 students from 12 different studies to look for correlations between the so-called Big Five major personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) and what the individual studied.

We spoke to Vedal about the implications of her research.

How did you come up with the idea for this study?
When I finished high school, I found it very hard to decide which major to choose. I liked both the sciences and humanities, so the idea came to me that maybe I shouldn't only look at what I liked and was good at, but also consider which social environment I would "fit into" with my personality. That didn't make the choice any easier [laughs].

Tell us more about the connection between majors and personality.
Economics and law students scored low on "agreeableness and openness" whereas psychology and arts/humanities students scored high on these personality traits.

Psychology and arts/humanities students scored high on "neuroticism" also, whereas economics, law, business and sciences students scored low on this personality trait. Arts/humanities and sciences students scored low on "extraversion," while medicine, political science, economics and law students scored high on this personality trait.

What are the implications of these results?
It could inspire teachers to structure environments tailored to their student.

What's next?
I've just moved to Brisbane to visit a research colleague for half a year, and I might do some research in a completely different area while I'm here. But I'm not done with personality group differences across academic majors. I'll be back.

The 'Big Five' personality traits:

Neuroticism: anxiety, angry hostility, depression, self-consciousness, impulsivity, vulnerability.

Extraversion: warmth, gregariousness, assertiveness, activity, excitement seeking, positive.

Openness: fantasy, aesthetics, feelings, actions, ideas, values.

Conscientiousness: competence, order, dutifulness, achievement striving, self-discipline.

Agreeableness: trust, straightforwardness, altruism, compliance, modesty, tender-mindedness.

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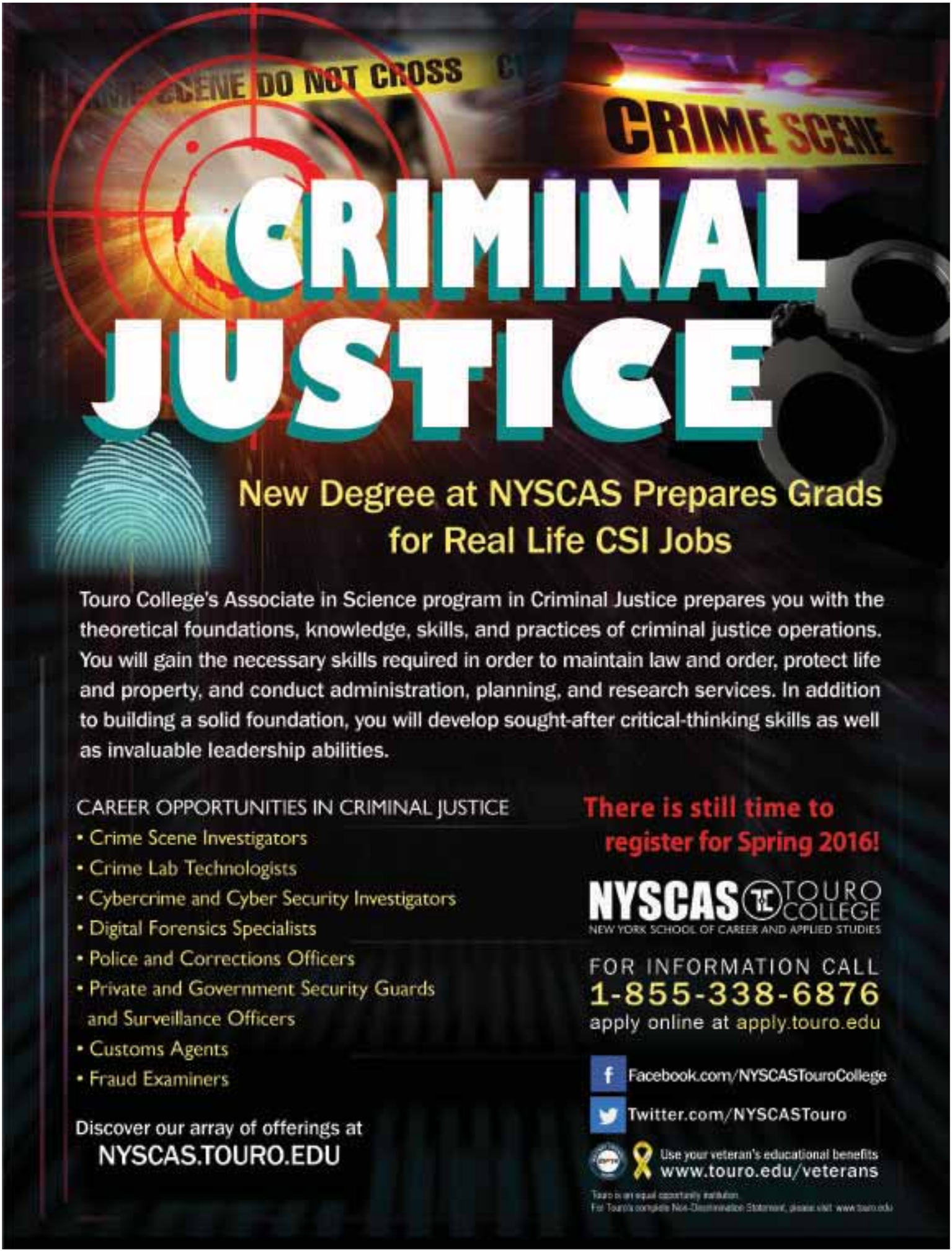

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Year of the student

New York public school students who observe Lunar New Year take pride in citywide recognition of their culture.

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Many New Yorkers are ushering in the Year of the Monkey today, and that means parades, fireworks, and — for the first time — an official day off school in honor of Lunar New Year. Public school students who observe the holiday no longer have to choose between going to class and honoring their cultural tradition.

"So often with schools with a large ESL population, it's all about acclimating," says Melanie Lee, the principal at Queens High School for Language Studies in Flushing, where more than 60 percent of the student body is Asian-American. "When you have citywide recognition of another holiday, it allows schools to take a step back and say, 'We value students' home culture and home language.'"

In September, Mayor Bill de Blasio fulfilled a campaign pledge from 2013 to close schools for the first day of Lunar New Year (often referred to as Chinese New Year, though it is celebrated throughout East Asia) as well as on the Muslim holy days of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. Elected officials and community groups had been pushing to add Lunar New Year to the public school system for years. Of the system's more than 1 million students, one in six is Asian.

On Friday, students from the Queens High School for Language Studies held a talent show and Lunar New Year celebration at the Flushing Town Hall. They graduate with fluency in academic English and Mandarin Chinese, and at home, speak a variety of languages including Spanish, Tamil, Urdu, Filipino and several Chinese dialects.

> *"When you have citywide recognition of another holiday, it allows schools to take a step back and say, 'We value students' home culture and home language.'"* Lee

At the High School for Dual Language and Asian Studies in Manhattan, where about 83 percent of the school's 421 students are of Asian descent, 11th grader Tema, 16, says "all the students are feeling really ecstatic" about the school system's recognition of Lunar New Year.

"I'm actually Tibetan, not Chinese," says the 16-year-old. "The fact that New York City made this holiday is also for other student populations. The Tibetan new year also falls on this day, and so we are also recognizing another minority, the Tibetans. It shows a real coming together of the community."

In the past, students have "had to make a hard choice; they don't feel they can miss a day's work and take a day off," says High School for Dual Language and Asian Studies Principal Li Yan, who notes that it's important for students to "feel that their culture is being recognized."

"I'm Cuban, I don't celebrate Chinese New Year, but the fact we have the day off gives us a chance not to overlook the Chinese culture, especially for us non-Asian students because we hear a lot about it, but we don't get the chance to experience it firsthand," says dual language student Thalia, 16, who says she's looking forward to seeing the fireworks in Chinatown.

Families congregate on Lunar New Year — it's as significant as "Thanksgiving and Christmas combined," says Lee. Attendance at previous schools where she worked was low on Lunar New Year, since many students stayed home to be with family.

"For a lot of parents, it's one of the few days they get off, especially if they work for Chinese-owned businesses," she says, but this year, it "doesn't have to be a sacrifice."

The dragon dance is often performed during Lunar New Year, and is believed to bring good luck. ISTOCK

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Miller helping Rangers get back on track

J.T. Miller has New York in a good spot heading into tonight's game vs. New Jersey.

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There was precious little that could be construed in the latest edition of the Rangers-Flyers blood feud.

Except, of course, for the outcome.

The Rangers enter a significant week in their season coming off a 3-2 shootout win Saturday afternoon in Philadelphia. The Rangers have won two of the three games they have played since the All-Star break, and have a four-point lead over New Jersey for second place in the Metropolitan Division.

"Every team is so close in the standings and even if we gave them two points there, they're within striking distance," J.T. Miller told reporters after the win in Philadelphia. "We knew that if we just kept the pedal down, hopefully we would get them to crack and it was just a good example of fighting to the last second. We've showed that many times here in the third period, we've always had some really great comebacks. So for it to pan out like that I thought that it was really good for a lot of the guys."

In a season in which pointed questions about player personnel and their usage have been asked, the emergence has been a significant positive.

The 22-year old ranks second on the team with 16 goals — behind co-leaders Derick Brassard and Mats Zuccarello who have 18 each — and his 29 points is fourth most.

"I see a young man that is definitely growing and understanding more every day what it is to be a pro, and going out there and working hard to become the best player he could be," Alain Vigneault said of Miller after the Rangers' 4-2 win over Minnesota on Feb. 4. In that game, Miller recorded two points, scoring the tying goal and assisting on the game-winning goal.

"He's putting in a lot of time in his off-ice conditioning, works hard in practice and he's getting an opportunity right now," Vigneault said. "He's definitely playing well for us."

Vigneault's words differ from the words he uttered nearly two years ago.

During the 2013-14 season, Miller was shuttled between the NHL level and AHL Hartford, and was publicly criticized by Vigneault.

> *"I see a young man that is definitely growing."*
> Alain Vigneault on J.T. Miller

"There needs to be more commitment on his part, both on and off the ice," Vigneault said before the Rangers' 3-2 shootout loss to the Avalanche in Denver. "Until there is, he just hasn't earned the right to be at [the NHL] level on a regular basis. Any young player going through the process of being a NHL player, you've got to figure it out. Hopefully he will, and when he does, we'll have a pretty good player. And if he doesn't, he'll be a good minor leaguer."

What has changed for Miller?

According to Brassard, it's a mental thing.

"As a young player in the league, a lot of times it's going to take a little longer to get that confidence of making plays," Brassard said of Miller.

J.T. Miller and the Rangers will take on the Devils tonight. GETTY IMAGES

Super Bowl 50

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Cooper wants to right a wrong with Red Bulls

Kenny Cooper is back with the Red Bulls, looking to prove a point.

KRISTIAN DYER
@KristianRDyer
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Kenny Cooper had just concluded a tough training session with the New York Red Bulls on a hot morning in central Florida. He was tired and ready to rest before the afternoon session, huddled up in a jacket after spending some time in a much-needed ice bath.

He was shivering cold from the ice bath as the temperature approached the mid-80s.

His interview was just completed, and Cooper was already a few hundred yards toward the Omni Orlando Resort where the team was staying when he made a U-Turn and sprinted back. He forgot to say something in his interview.

It was a memory from Sept. 20, 2014, following the Red Bulls' 4-1 win over the Seattle Sounders. Cooper was with Seattle then, returning to Red Bull Arena for the first time since he played for New York in 2012, a season where he scored 18 goals. He was traded away that offseason, a salary cap casualty.

Cooper is back again, now on trial with the Red Bulls as a free agent.

"A big reason is the fans. I can't get over it," Cooper told Metro. "After that game, [former Red Bulls midfielder] Tim Cahill dragged me out of the tunnel to go see the fans. Their reception was one of the best moments of my career."

Cooper details a reception from the fans, in particular the supporters who comprise the South Ward, moments that produce goosebumps even today.

Now trying out for the Red Bulls, Cooper's inclusion with the team is an intriguing one. At age 31, he certainly has plenty in the tank to help the team. He's a veteran with plenty of experience in England and Germany and 10 appearances with the United States national team.

This offseason, it was Cooper reaching out to Jesse Marsch, the reigning MLS Coach of the Year, to see if there was an opportunity with a team that finished the season with the league's best record. In training during the Red Bulls' preseason, it is obvious he still has something in the tank. His movement off the ball is good and he's tough to knock off the ball. He's confident in the dribble and still has a blistering shot.

"It is really impressive what is going on here. Really happy to be down here now and hopefully something works out so that I can continue here," Cooper said. "I have a lot of really good friendships within the team and knowing them and seeing the culture that is here, I feel like it's a good fit for me so, yeah, obviously being a free agent, it is a unique opportunity. No team holds your rights. This is a place I'd love to come back to."

Jesse Marsch is happy to have Cooper in the fold.

Kenny Cooper is back with the Red Bulls. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

As for a role, Cooper in his conversations with Marsch said he could be a target forward or playing off a high striker, perhaps even out wide — "I'd be comfortable with wherever."

There is a bit of unfinished business for Cooper, who missed a penalty kick in the 2012 playoffs that doomed the Red Bulls to an exit against D.C. United. Cooper took that miss hard and personally.

Should he make the team, it'd be an opportunity for him to chase an MLS Cup title that has eluded this franchise over the past two decades.

"The culture that I see here, the people at the club, the great friendships, the family in the area, a lot of reasons. I'm really attracted to the Red Bulls. Obviously the club has done really well the last couple of years — two Supporters Shields. It's been great to have a couple of opportunities to get in and experience that side of it," Cooper said.

"It would be incredible to be a part of a first championship here. That's also a huge draw for me. I'd love to be a part of it."

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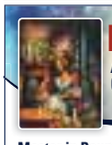

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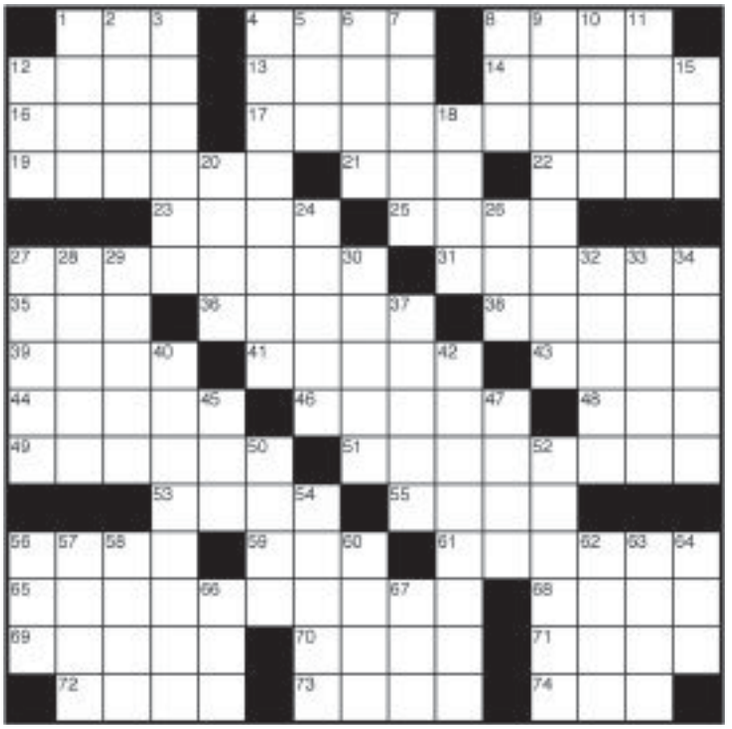

Across

1 Opposite of post-
4 Pea jackets?
8 Costa —
12 Bright crescent
13 La Scala highlight
14 Sultans' cousins
16 Loaded for —
17 Basement alternative
19 In peril (2 wds.)
21 Mark of Zorro
22 Sub — (secretly)
23 Billiard sticks
25 Surrealist painter
27 Punctual (3 wds.)
31 Hang loose
35 Up for payment
36 Bantu people
38 — in the wind
39 Party pooper
41 Wild fear
43 Jade
44 Literary work
46 Peeves
48 Apiece
49 Walked unsteadily
51 Mountaineers
53 Pasternak woman
55 Gin-fizz flavor
56 Diet spread
59 Role for Madonna
61 Joke response (3 wds.)
65 Did some heavy lifting? (2 wds.)
68 Lacking color
69 Bugs' nemesis
70 Shake — —!
71 Just scraped by
72 Fill the hull
73 Dozes off
74 Oedipus —

Down

1 Bard or minstrel
2 Thunder
3 Add vitamins
4 Ready to go (2 wds.)
5 Bruin great
6 Cameron — of films
7 Hewn
8 Lo- — graphics
9 Fixes firmly
10 Breezy greeting
11 Equator segments
12 Wall St. degree
15 Neptune's kingdom
18 Soft metal
20 Lesseps' canal
24 Kind of panel
26 Refrain syllables
27 More peculiar
28 Clinic staffer
29 Kid
30 Medieval garment
32 Purple color
33 Down the road
34 Pitchers
37 Flowerpot holders
40 Rode fast
42 Upper limits
45 Affirmative vote
47 Bad air
50 — Scott decision
52 Belt clip-on
54 Of birds
56 Unfold, in verse
57 Break in the action
58 The avenging Mrs. Peel
60 A Guthrie
62 Swallow
63 Holly shrub
64 Mr. Danson
66 Prior to
67 U.K. lexicon

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easy

		9		2	1			
1		4			8			7
5					7		3	
4	8			5		3		
		1		8		2		
		2		1			4	5
	6		1					3
9			8			7		1
			6	4		5		

hard

6	4		9					
	8	7			6		3	
	9					6	5	4
4		2			1			
	5						7	
			6			2		5
1	2	8					4	
	3		7			8	2	
					8		9	3

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Do things for yourself, not for others, today. Not everyone will be impressed or will recognize your talents. If you support the underdog, you will feel good about your accomplishments.

Taurus Concentrate on romance, travel or something you enjoy doing. Participate in activities that inspire you to use your skills in new ways. New beginnings await you.

Gemini Set a price for what you have to offer. Working for nothing will not pay the bills. You deserve to be paid what you are worth. Consider starting your own business.

Cancer Check out your alternatives. A different environment or life choice will motivate you to take on projects that allow you to use your imagination. Romance is encouraged.

Leo A partnership will allow you to concentrate on what you do best. Negotiate your terms and get what you want in writing. A change will do you good. Face your fears head-on.

Virgo If you take inventory of your life, you will realize how much it holds. An assertive, willful approach to getting what you want will lead to satisfaction and new goals.

Libra Observe what others say and do, but don't let on how you feel or what your plans are until you have everything in place. Trust in yourself, and follow through with your objectives.

Scorpio Recognize what you are up against. Don't let an emotional reaction lead to an argument. Discord will curtail your freedom and stifle your chance to bring about positive change.

Sagittarius Plan to do something that is entertaining and exciting and that will capture your imagination and lead to an interesting project or pastime.

Capricorn Not everyone will like your ideas. Walk away from those who complain, and surround yourself with positive, upbeat doers willing to give you a helping hand.

Aquarius Take action and do what you can to get back in shape. Your physical and mental states will determine how well you will do and what you will accomplish.

Pisces You will feel alienated if you don't share your thoughts. Be honest and find out where you stand. A healthy sense of compromise will lead to balanced relationships. **EUGENIA LAST**

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